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THE CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

DR. FRANK M. SHELDON

The Congregational Education Society covers a much wider field of service than most of the Boards connected with the Council. The entire religious education program of the denomination is under the Society, with the exception of our colleges and academies, which now look to the Foundation for Education for assistance. Our educational institutions among backward races are with the American Missionary Association.

Aside from these two, all the efforts for better religious education work-in the home, in the local church, including Sunday School, young people's, social service, missionary education and recruiting, religious work done for students in colleges, and the work being done in tax-supported institutions, are under this society.

The year has been an excellent one from the standpoint of what has been accomplished. We have been able to extend our work in tax-supported institutions to some six or seven additional schools. We have been able to secure more efficient workers in certain places because of ability to invest more largely, and we have entered into three or four additional points where we are cooperating with other Boards.

Student Secretary

One of the most important steps of our work is the securing of Rev. Harry Thomas Stock for Student Secretary. Mr. Stock is a graduate of Knox College, Chicago Theological Seminary, with the Master's degree from Chicago University. He has taught in Chicago Theological Seminary, and is in every way splendidly equipped to take charge of our student and recruiting work. We expect to be able to give much more satisfactory service in connection with our tax-supported institutions because of his coming.

Our work of recruiting Christian leaders will be systematized and a definite follow-up for the recruits as they are enlisted will be carried forward more aggressively through Mr. Stock's department

Increased Interest

The work in tax-supported schools is claiming more and more the interest and attention of our churches. In Illinois, at the State Conference held last May, which Conference met at Urbana, a State Foundation for Education was organized for the purpose of providing funds for the enlargement of our work at the University of Illinois along regular student lines and in the direction of a School of Religious Education.

The State Conference of Michigan met with the church at Ann Arbor, and there also a state foundation was organized. This foundation has a little wider scope than the one in Illinois, since it includes our work at the University, at the Agricultural College, at the Normal College at Ypsilanti, and at Olivet College.

State Organizations

Another interesting and exceedingly helpful feature of the work is the organization of our Congregational students in individual colleges or universities. One of the oldest organizations of this character and most effective is that at the University of Wisconsin where Rev. Jesse Sarles has a large Student Cabinet and a working organization in which it is easy to get the finest of the Congregational students to enlist. One result of this organization, together with the efforts of the student pastor, has been that an average of 140 students have been received into the First Congregational Church on associate membership each year for the last eight years.

These organizations enable the student pastor or church pastor to keep in touch with all his student group and to multiply his efforts manifold.

Other Phases of the Work

The Council will probably not be greatly interested in the other phases of the Education Society's work, although they will be interested in the opportunity we have to work with the groups which have our youth in training before they come into their college and university experience. Thus we may see that they get the training and equipment which will enable them to enter the university life without a serious shock to their religious think-

ing and experience, and so come through the university strengthened in religious faith rather than having the experience result in possible tragedy.

These are some of the more important features of our work during the last year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

DR. E. E. RALL

The Board of Education of the Evangelical Church came into existence on October 19, 1922 at the first General Conference of the newly organized Evangelical Church resulting from the consolidation of the former Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church. The Boards of Education of these two denominations have ceased to exist and a new Board was organized on the date mentioned, with the election of Bishop S. P. Spreng of Naperville as Chairman, and the undersigned as Secretary. The membership of this Board is made up of two Bishops appointed by the Board of Bishops, five ministers and five laymen appointed quadrennially by the General Conference of the Church, and the Presidents of the Educational institutions *ex-officio*. The following institutions at the present time are under the control of this Board: North-western College, Naperville; Albright College, Myerstown, Pa.; Western Union College, LeMars, Ia., Schuylkill Seminary and Junior College, Reading, Pa., Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Ill., and the Schuylkill School of Theology, Reading, Pa.

The chief work of the Board of Education of the Evangelical Association during the past year consisted in the making of provision for looking after the spiritual welfare of Evangelical young people attending institutions of learning other than those of our Church. At the request of the Board each annual conference of the Church is appointing a representative to act within the bounds of such conferences. The secretary of the Board has been in communication with each of such appointees and steps are being taken to secure contact between them and students through personal investigation and correspondence.